THE SIX MILITIA-MEN.

From the Baltimore Republican.

BALTIMORE, 7th April, 1828 Hon. J. K. Polk. Esq.

DEAR SIR.—The untiring and un-blushing efforts of the partizans of Messra. Adams and Clay, to mislead the people on the subject of the execu-tion of the "Six Militia Men," make it the duty of every friend of General Jackson, of truth, of the character of the country, and of the future discipline of the militia, in the event of itbeing necessary to call them out, to ap ply to every source for information cal lated to place the conduct of Gen. Jackson, upon that occasion, in its proper light. Believing on my conscience, that the conduct of General Jackson in that matter was legal and proper, that the crimes of the 'Six Militis Men,' merited the punishment which was awarded to them, by the Court Martial, and that the good of the service demanded their execution as an example; I confess that the course which the Administration prints are pursuing with regard to them, fills me with awful forebodings for the future

welfare of the country.

A standing army is repugnant to the feelings of our people, and hostile to our republican institutions. The mili the defence of our liberties. But, what are the militia without discipline? And, if mutineers and deserters are, for party purposes, to be represented as martyrs, and, under every perversi on of existing facts, and forgery of o thers, the sympathics of a virtuous people are to be enlisted in their behalf; what militia man can be kept in whole some restraint? If officers are to be held up, as murderers, for a faithful discharge of their duties, and a firm but judicious execution of the laws—what officer will be willing to serve in our armies? These are questions which the sober and reflecting cannot blink, they must present themselves to th mind of every man whose principles and judgment are not perverted.

Coming from the state of Tennestions in the south and west during the late war; I have thought, that might be able to furnish me yourself, or to put me in the way of being furnished by others, with all the facts and circumatances, with regard to calling out execution of the 'Six Militia Men.' and pealing to you. The administration leaders in this state, are making the most desperate efforts to carry it for the Coalition. Perversions the most ries the most foul and daring, are cir-culated in every corner of the state, in handbills, pamphlets, and newspapers. Falsehoods are asserted with such boldness, and repeated with such pertinacity, that those who are virtuous, and even intelligent, but uninformed, are At the last election, the staggered. strength of the General in this state was diminished by the circulation of an infamous pamphlet of Jesse Benton's He, notwithstanding, had a majority in the state. His strength has increased much since, and in spite of every effort to mislead the people, the Old Sol dier will get a large majority of our votes. That majority may still be in creased, by the circulation of correct information; and there is no subject upon which they want it so much as this of the Six Millitia Men.? If you can afford me any, I am sure you will, and I need not say, that my best endeavours shall be used, to place that matter i its proper light, to the people of Ma-

Yours truly and respectfully. D. S. CARR.

WASHINGTON CITY, April 11, 1828.

D S. CARR, Esq.
I have received your letter of the 7th instant, requesting me to furnish you with wall the facts and circum any candid, intelligent man, could for a moment doubt the correctness of General Jackson's conduct, in relation to this subject, after the exposition which has already been given of it to the pub lic. No man has ever been more mis represented and slandered by his political adversaries than Gen. Jackson. and upon no subject more than that in relation to the execution of the 'six militia men.' Coming from the state in which Gen. Jackson resides, being his personal friend, having long known him intimately, and feeling as I do, that he has been unjustly assailed, I cheerfully comply with your request, in giving you a narrative of the facts connected with the services and execution of these unfortunate men. so far as I have been

enabled to ascertain them.

On the 11th of January 1814, the Secretary of War, wrote to the Go vernor of Tennessee, authorising him to supply by militia drafts, or by vo-lunteers, any deficiency which may a-rise in the militia divisions under the take it for granted, with these incon command of Major General Jackson. and without referring on this head to this department. It may be well that your excellency should consult Gen. Pinckney on such occasions, as he can best judge of the whole number neces-

partment of War, as he might deem necessary to supply any deficiency of troops under Gen. Jackson's command. 1814, by virtue of the author's vested in him by the Secretary of War, the governor of Tennessee issued his or der to Gen. Jackson; at that time not and you will judge, in the service of the United States, but in the service of the United States, but These troops were marched from a Major General of the matta of Fen easse, in which he says, "you will vous, under the immediate command of

the army of the United States. was a Major General of the militia of Tennessee, and was bound to obey the mandate of his superior officers. The ution of that state, is the commander in chief of its militia. He issued this order to Jackson, and distinctly inform d him in the order itself, that he wano part of Jackson's right or duty to question that authority. It was suffi-tient for him to know that it had been ssued by his superior officer, and it was his duty to obey. He did obey. On the 24th of May 1814, General

Jackson issued his order to the militia of the division which he commanded.

in which he says "I am communited b

Governor Blount, to

call from my division one thousand men, in the service of the United states, for the period of SIX months, unless sooner discharged by order of the President of the United States? Here then in his order to the militia of his division, he distinctly informed them that they were called out for the term of SIX months. In obedience to hese several orders, these troops, con endezvoused at Favetteville, Tennes were on that day mustered into the ervice of the United States for the term of SIX months. They were placed under the immediate command of Col. Pipkin, and marched to the posts in the Creek nation. Of these troops, the six who were afterwards tried and executed at Mobile, for mutiny and deo the troops themselves, and to the whole country, at the time they were and long subsequent to it, so understood it, for they were actually PAID Blount to the Secretary of War, dated October 19th, 1814s and among the documents from the War Department, he says in reference to this very de-tachment, "there is in service from tachment, "there is in service from this state 1000 men at the posts in the Creek country. They were ordered out for SIX months, and have nearly three months yet to serve." Here the Department of War were distinctly informed that they were in service for the term of SIX months, and that they

had nearly three months to serve.

trovertible facts staring him in the face, the most violent partizan will no lon

ger contend, that the 'six militia men'

in reference to the length of the time of service of this detachment of militia. This discretion vested in the governor viz. the order of the Governor of Ten was unlimited, with the exception of the suggestion, that it might be well for him to consult Gen. Pinckney, who Jackson to his division of militia of the was at that time the commander in 24th of May, 1814, each stating that chief of the army in that section of the union. From the great distance of the seat of government from the scene of these documents which I have procurthe war in the south, great delays and incalculable injury to the country must. Where are these documents? Gover have been the consequence of waiting nor Blount has recently stated on oats orders from Washington, in every instance when militia drafts became necessary. And the 31st January 1814, the Secretary of War again wrote to the governor of Tennessee and refer red him to his letter of the 11th of the same month. On the 20th of May, and doubtless the other was likewise forwarded to the Department of War. But now neither of them are communicated to Congress. Are they the authors seems 1814, by virtue of the authority vested in a necess in the Department? I state

without delay, order out one too sand Col. Picken to the posts in the Creek tion were no longer heard of in that militia infantive of the 2d division, for mation. The corps to which the ists part of the military service. Inditionally the term of SIX months, unless sooner multiament belonged, was stationed at I transmit to you the statement of the term of SIX months, unless sooner | militiamen' belonged, was stationed at of the United States, or you may accept a tender of service of the above riod even of three months, much, lessummer of volunteer infantry from the six months, had expired, an alarming 2d division for the aforesaid term, for the purpose of garrisoning the said many army, took place in the posts," (the posts in the Creek nation) camp, of which these six militia men were the ringleaders. Harris who lation to calls for men, to act against seems to have been the principal, seve the Creeks, in furtherance of the views | rai days before the limiting broke out.
of government, in that behalf, is given | carried about a sub-cription paper thro to me by instructions from the war de-partment." The governor further or-all who would agree to go home. In dered that these troops should rendez definite of their officers commanding tous at Fayetteville, in the state of the post, they on the 19th of September 1814, violently and tumultuously and should thence be marched to the assembled together, to the number of posts in the Creek nation, so as to are more two hundred, broke open the pulmear two hundred, broke open the pubrive between the 1st and 10th of July. To stores, took out provisions, demo of the troops" then in the field, would and in the face of authority, left the xpire. On the receipt of this order, camp on the next morning at the end that was the duty of Gen. Jackson: of revielle beats' yelling and firing He was not at that time an officer of scattering guns as they departed, pro-He claiming to all who would, to follow

them.

The troops who remained at the post were subjected to much exposure and fatigue, in consequence of the reduction of their numbers. The consequence was that they were seized with disease and many of them died. Their deat may in a great degree be attributed to authorised to issue it by instructions the abandonment of the post by the from the War Department. It was mutineers. These mutineers and de serters were subsequently arrested and brought back to the post. Gen Jack son, then at M bile. was informed of what had taken pace, and was requested by their commanding officer to order ourt martial for their trial. On th 21st of November, 1814, the General ordered a court martial, to be convened at Mobile, for their trial, and directed that the prisoners and witnesses should be sent thither; and on the next day the 22d, he left Mobile for New Or eans, where he anticipated an attack would soon be made by the enemy .-This court martial convened at Mobile on the 3d of December, 1814, Genera Jackson being at New Orleans. It was composed of officers, with the excep ion of one, of the Tennessee militia flicers from the same section of coun try with the accused, who doubtiess had all the sympathy for them; and ex-tended to them all the lenity which according to the rules and articles of war; and the six ringleaders were sentenced by the court martial to receiv

the punishment of death by shooting. The proceedings of the court martial were forwarded to General Jackson then at New Orleans, for his approval. The six ringleaders were not recom mended to mercy by the court martial wou with "all the facts and circum mustered into service, that it was for the Tennessee militia; and the trial and execution of the 'six militia men." I had supposed it scarcely possible that any possed it scarcely possible that any possed it scarcely possible that any possed it scarcely possible that any possible that any possed it scarcely possible that any possible t my's forces were still in our waters and on our border. When an attack might ers of a mutiny, the highest offence be made was unknown, and the militia known in an army, that left an imporstood it, for they were actually a rate of the stood of the service. Indeed we be made was unknown, and the militial for SIX months service. Indeed we be made was unknown, and the militial known in an army, that it is not under General Winchester's command that post in the enemy's country almost defenceless, a mutiny, the most at Mobile, were threatening to muting of any that took place during even now so understood. The muster at Mobile, were threatening to muti-olls were returned to the Department of War at the time, and shew on their General Jackson saw that the salvation sice for SIX months. The pay rolls subordination was not preserved in the murder. If it be said that the laws of shew that they were PAID for SIX months. In a letter from Governor these six unfortunate, the guilty men, these six unfortunate, the guilty were executed. This approval of the sentence of the court martial was made too severe; the answer is-neither at New Orleans on the 22d of January, Jackson nor the court martial could al 1815. The first intimation which the ter it. It was their duty to execute General had of the news of peace even and not to amend it. I am justified Tennessee, and I doubt not, that the by rumour, was received on the 18th or in coming to the conclusion that his country which he so nobly defended, 19th of February, 1815, from Mr. Livingston, now a member of congress, the government itself. How does the then one of his aid-de-camps, who had then one of his aid-de-camps, who had been sent to the British fleet to effect an exchange of prisoners, and who on his return, brought information from his return, brought information from Admiral Cochrane, that a vessel had the time transmitted to the War Dearrived bringing intelligence that peace partment. These identical long lost, had been concluded. (See Mr. Living but now found, documents, were reston's note of this date inclosed.) This, this department. It may be well that ger contend, that the six militia men' vour excellency should consult Gen. Pinckney on such occasions, as he can best judge of the whole number necessary to the attainment of the public.

There is a fact connected with this laten place. On the 8th of February,

peace had reached Mobile. Col. G. C. Russell, who commanded on the day the sentence of the court martial was carried into execution, states in a letter of the 29th of July, 1827, that 'we had no knowledge of a treaty of peace having been signed at Ghent, till more than a month after the approval of the sentence, and fifteen or twenty days The official news after its execution.' of peace did not reach General Jackson until the 13th of March, 1815, and or the 19th of the same month, the British commander received the official intelligence from his government. It was not until after this period that the British forces left their position on that

border of the union.

The effect which the execution o these men produced in the army was most salutary. Not a whisper was af terwards heard of the mutiny which had threatened General Winchester's com mand. Subordination was restored, and all the troops in the service were willing, and did without a murmur per-form their duty. Mutiny and deser

Major Armstrong, lately of the army, now the marshall of Alabama, a highly respectable gentleman, who was pre ent at the execution, and who state the facts which came within his know From this narrative of facts, it is im-

possible to conceive how censure can ittach to General Jackson. At the time he approved the sentence of the six ringleaders, he pardoned all those who had been recommended to mercy by the court martial that tried them At the time of the execution all acqui esced in its justice. Every officer in the army responded to the importance of the example, for the good of the ser-vice. At that time the whole country was satisfied. Not a whisper of cen sure was heard against the command ing General, or any member of the court martial in reference to it. On of these unfortunate men went from tne immediate neighbourhood in which I reside, and no other sentiment pre vailed on the arrival of the news of th crime he had committed and the punishment he had suffered, than regre a deep conviction that he had met to fate his conduct merited. That senti ment in relation to all of these, was u niversal in Tennessee, where they re-sided at the time, and such it has coninued ever since. The people of Pennessee, many of whom had been in the campaigns against the hostile Creekknew too well how to appreciate th rimes of mutiny and desertion in an army, to think of censuring either th court martial or the commanding Ge neral for having performed a duty ever unpleasant, yet absolutely neces-sary for the defence of the country. The people of Tennessee claim to be a moral and as humane as those of other sections of the union, and yet they, the

neighbours and acquaintances of these

ix unfortunate men, and the neigh-

bours and acquaintances of Gen. Jack-

on, have never thought of censuring

As well might you censure the judge

him for the approval of their sentence

for pronouncing the sentence of the law on the culprit fairly condemned by a jury of his country; as well might you censure the Executive of the union or of any of the states for withholding their duty as officers of the court would from the condemned criminal a pardon, permit. They had a fair and full trial when he had not been recommended to mercy, and when no circumstance in his case could palliate his crime. as censure Jackson in this instance for with holding from these six mutineers a remission of their punishment. And yet it is as abborrent to our feelings to see a man hanged as to see him shot. The principal commander in the service, one case is as well calculated as the and yet at the time all acquiesced in other to enlist the sympathies of our the importance and absolute necessity mutineers and eleserters, the ringlead alarming of any that took place during the war; and yet we now hear him un guinary, and that the punishment was conduct was approved at the time by

objects.' Here was a discretionary part of the subject, which I shall here power given to the governor of Ten take the liberty to state. The documents essee, to call out such portion of the grees, by the Secretary of War, during for further or specific orders from the design ments. The was attacked by the British forces both of the government, that the six mili of the government in the six mili of the government in the six mili of the government in th a subsequent period when his conduct have been fully effected; and h in the Seminole campaign was arraign in the Seminole campaign was arraigned in congress; when his whole public life was scrutinized, no charge was then made against him for the trial and execution of the "six militia men."—

Then when the transaction was fresh relation to the Creek war, you without delay, order out each of the seminor of the country, it without delay, order out each of the seminor of the country. in the recollection of the country, it was not heard of. The result of the investigation is well remembered. His conduct was then ably, and I will add conduct was then ably, and I will add justly vindicated by the present chief magistrate; it was approved by the cept a tender of service of the control of the United States; or yet a tender of service of the control of the United States or yet a tender of service of the control of the United States or yet a tender of service of the control of the United States or yet and magistrate; it was approved by the

> utter falsehood of the charge now so industriously circulated by his enemies, for the purpose of exciting public opi-nion to his prejudice, the fact that it slept and was not heard of for thirteen years after the occurrence took place, an officer of the rank of Colon years after the occurrence took place, an onice of the land of color is itself conclusive. Why was it that during the Seminole discussion—why etteville, or the 20th of lane that during the last presidential canvass it was not heard of? Sim ply because it was not true; because when the occurrence was fresh in the recollection of the American people, all acquiesced in the correctness of his conduct. His bitterest enemy did not then dream of censuring him. But of the troops now there, and now he is a prominent candidate for nel Bunch, will expire, and it the Presidency. He stands in the way of the present rulers. His success is inevitable unless he can be broken down by falsehood and slander. This is the true secret. This is the true cause of the virulent abuse we have seen heaped upon him by the partizans of the administration. — They have un blushingly charged hun with cold blood ed murder. They have represented this great benefactor of his country, as

vorse than a midnight assassin.

I agree with you that the efforts nov naking to excite the sympathies of the public in behalf of these mutineers and deserters, is well calculated to produce ruinous consequences if the country should ever again be involved in war. That subordination must exist, and

that examples must occasionly be made. to insure safety in our army, all past experience has proved. Many execu ions took place during the revoluti both under the command of General Washington and General Greene, and yet neither of those distinguished officers have ever been knew too well how to appreciate their patriotic and valuable services. For he honour of the country I trust they never will be. One I will notice that is in point. It occurred under that great and good man General Washing ton. In a letter from General Wash ington to Robert Morris dated "Head Quarters, May 17th, 1782," he gives an account of it in these words: "Minds soured by distress are easily rankled; as a specimen of it, the pri vates of the Connecticut line, the other day upon the eve of a general meeting; the vigilance of the offi-cers discovered it a few hours before they were to parade; all the ringleaders have been tried and executed." This letter is published a-mong the public documents of congress, and its authenticity will not be ques tioned.* Here then is an instance mong many others that might be enu merated) under the immediate com ringleaders of a mutiny, in an army out their promised pay, having been tried and executed; a mutiny too, not actually consumnated, but only medi-

I have omitted to say many things which might have been said in reference to the course pursued by the administration presses, in regard to this idle story of the "six militia-men,"the suppression for a season of the documents, their subsequent discovery in the War Department, with ail which you must be familiar.

In conclusion I have to say, that

General Jackson is the same man now and equally devoted to his country's conquered the enemies of that country He living in retirement on his farm in will duly appreciate the services of this much injured man, and rescue him from the shafts of indignant envy wicked calumny that are levelled against him.

I have the honour to be very respectfully, your obedient servant JAMES K. POLK.

*Senate State papers, 1st session, 15th Congress. Gov. Blount's order to Gen. Jackson.

probable expiration of the time without delay, order out on militia infantry, of the 2d dire the term of six months, unless magistrate; it was approved solemn vote of congress; it was approved by his country, who then remembered with gratitude his sufferings, his privations and his services.

It there was no other evidence of the in relation to calls for men was not the charge new and cannot the Creeks in further than the creeks in th gainst the Creeks, in furthernac views of Government in that be given to me, by instructions fr

Those troops will be comman mentioned posts, under your of such number to each as you shall It is important to the public ests that they should be at the between the 1st and 10th off. as about that time the term d posts there is much public;

You will order the Ma ter to attend, and muster te into service. - You will the Contractor for provisions, the Assistant Deputy Quarter likewise, for supplies in his ment. WILLIE BLOU ment. WILLIB BLOW
To Major Gen. Andrew Jickse
2d Division of Tennesset.

State of Tennessee,

Montgomery county.

Be it remembered, that

Blount, late Governor of Tenn this 1st day of March, 1823 per appeared before Hiram Bubo, Justice of the Peace in and County of Montgomery, in the foresaid, and he being first du on the Holy Evangelists of God, deposeth and saith: that going writing purporting to be of an order from him to Ma Andrew Jackson, dated 20th W is a correct and true copy of nal order to Major Jackson, of the 20th of Mar. Jackson, or the 20th his files: that the foregoing en by himself, from t possession, of his official paper date: that a copy of said order I him transmitted, shortly after the detachment required by sa to be called out, was regularly ed agreeably to order, into sert the month of June 1814, and the detachment, to his knowled put under the command of Col. of the Tennessee Militia. And he saith not

WILLIE BLOUN Late Governor of Tenn I. Hiram Bobo, Justice of th the County of Montgomer of Tennessee, hereby certify foregoing deposition was manufactured before me, this let March 1828. HIRAM BUBQ

General Jackson's order to his d

24th of May, 1814. "Brave Tennesseeans of the ision. The Creek war, the Divine aid of Providence, and lour of those engaged in the can which you bore a conspicuo has been brought to a happy de tion. Good policy requires the territory conquered should be gr ed. and possession retained i propriated by the Government United States. In pursuance one thousand men in the ser United States, for the perio months, unless sooner order of the President of the

States. The Brimdier Generals, of commanding the 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, Brigades of the 2d division forthwith furnish from their b respectively, by draft or volunt istment, two hundred men, aptains, two first, two sec two third lieutenants, and two well armed and equipped for ac vice, to be rendezvoused at ville, Lincoln county, in the Tennessee, on the 20th June net then be organized into a regime which place the field officers, and ter-master will be ordered to

Officers commanding the be composing the 2d division of T see militia, are charged with prompt and due execution of thi ANDREW JACKSON, Maj. Ge Commanding 2d division,

ace first reached General Jackson at lask what Orleans in 1815. I have under and that you on your return from the during the field of the to which you had gone to militia, an feet an exchange of prisoners, brought stances, a feet an exchange of prisoners, brought stances, a feet intelligence which the Gener received on that subject. If from to six or s received on that subjection or any memoranda in your session you can give me the information, it will be esteemed a favour. I have the honour to be Very respectfully, 'r servant JAMES K. POLK. Mr. Livingston's Answer. April 11th, 1528.

Dar Sir-My recollection of the gest which the English account of

Jickson.

u-justly.

nore tha

object in not to

tions ma

shew, if

constrain

the laws convicted

Washi

by sente

and effic

was imp

he war

The

prograture of the treaty of Ghent, the eighteenth or nineteenth of Start 1515. [was sent to the British fleet to treat Twis sent to the british need to treat bette enhange of prisoners, about the set of February, and was detained yet until the fall of Fort Bowyer; I was leaving the Admiral he Brazen, sloop of war, came shought the first news of the re, and I arrived with it at New on the 18th or 19th.

Mr recollect of these dates is ing the law that of a gentleman arrisiter at this place, who accoman official account of the mr, and I ought perhaps to add. whether he considered the ac ant sufficiently authentic, to justify section of hastilities, to which skin answer was received until af the eighth of March, when advices received to induce the General leve, that the treaty had been ra at Washington, although ever he had received no despatches n the Government announcing that

athis may be a sati-factory an r to your note of this date.
And am with great respect. 34 those Your most ob'ts ser'vt. EDWARD LIVING STON.

Washington City.
11th April, 1828.

kir Sir—I have received your note date, requesting me to state al r know, in relation to the executi the "six militiamen" at Mobile answer I have to state that I the army at Mobile, in com

of a battallion of the 24th Regiin of December 1814. General Jack being at that time engaged in the Hence of New Orleans. The situaan of the army at Mobile was most stred from the scarcity and want of anoth te 8th of January, made his appear rein the bay, and took possession of basis Island. We expected an at at hilly. Subordination in our coup. roall important for our afety. We tions a theds-rate matting, which had but a shor time before taken proce at For arranp. It was at this awful crisis that and the for lakson's order reached us, ap-groung the execution of the six mility. It was The officers conversed freely of if no

The officers conversed freely of if not kerample then about to be made. But from t esentiment prevailed. All were deep | credit lital importance to the suboroi sation | script Dept the time propitious for the exception. For myself I have always found the example a most fortunate both as regards the discipline of the cers. ray, and the safety of the country.

are men were executed, conversed princ the them a few minutes before their destion in company with Col. Gil het C. Rupelt. They spoke feelingly their approaching fate, but without have to any one but those engaged in men's tematiny. At the time they were tecuted, we had no news of expecta for or peace. I remained myself in an until after the news of prace ar hed, and never heard a murmur o satisfaction. There were present If if them no doubt neighbours to thos and yet not one word of com was heard, either against the ort Martial that tried them, or the manding General that approved the m'ence. All agreed in its necessity as importance. The effects produced as the army by this example was evited; the strictest subordination profiled; every officer and soldier did his "y, and we were relieved from any thensions of a mutiny in our camp.

lam very respectfully, Your ob't. servant. F. W. ARMSTRONG. lothe Hon. James K. Polk, Washington.

and

Washington city, March 24, 1828. Dear Sir, Believing that without bordinatio, an army is inefficient, and angerous only to its friends, and that, enforce it, examples are sometimes tec adispensable, and knowing that you ing strein the service of the U. States. bre taring the late war, we are induced to I tor: